

ATTENTION-GETTER

Sign highlights age of Tarkiln building

Money sought for 'bare-bones' restoration

By **ELENI HIMARAS**
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DUXBURY

About a dozen people watched as a small addition was put on the Tarkiln Community Center yesterday, one they hope will be the first of many.

Robert Vose of the Duxbury Historical Commission hung a sign that reads "Tarkiln School 1871." It was made by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society.

"We want to increase awareness about the building," Vose said.

On March 10, residents at town meeting will vote on whether to spend more than \$100,000 in Community Preservation Act money on renovating the building.

"In 1871, people at town meeting actually voted against the building because they thought farm kids didn't need school," said Ann Prince, co-chairwoman of the Friends of Tarkiln. "This building has had an uphill climb its entire existence."

If the spending proposal is

approved at town meeting, someone will be hired to plan a "bare-bones" rehabilitation.

"Just restoration and making it accessible," Norman Tucker of the historical commission said. "Next year, we'll ask for money for actual construction."

Until the boiler broke down recently, more than 400 people from several community groups — including Boy Scouts, two churches, a dance group and Alcoholics Anonymous — used the building as a meeting place.

Prince said she had been going to church at the Tarkiln building for 15 years and that her daughter was taking dance lessons there.

"I don't know as much about the history as others might; I just know that I'm in love with the building," she said.

To draw attention to the building's historical significance, there is a Tarkiln exhibition at the library.



GREG DERR/The Patriot Ledger

Robert Vose of the Duxbury Historical Commission hangs a "Tarkiln School 1871" sign on the Tarkiln Community Center yesterday.

Tucker said it includes architectural drawings from 1908 and 1926 and a statement from the school superintendent on the building's 1871 opening.

He said the site is eligible to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"I've lived here for 36 years —

that's 100 less than Tarkiln," said Myrna Walsh, who watched the sign being placed on the building yesterday. "It represents an important part of the community that is Duxbury and represents people coming together for a greater good."

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